

GOOD COMEDY PRESENTED AT SCHOOLBOOK INQUIRY

Witness Fails to Substantiate Charges
of "Graft" Against State
Board.

SCHOOLBOOK PROBE CONTINUES

Salesman Fails to Give Any Concrete
Instances of "Grafting," but Says
Public Believes There Is "Some-
thing Wrong."

Comedy of a type seldom seen of
stage was presented last night, when
B. P. Shelor, of Salem, testified be-
fore the legislative committee appointed
to probe charges that publishing com-
panies have discriminated against
Virginia in the matter of prices
charged for schoolbooks.

Mr. Shelor, who is president of the
Civil Betterment League of Salem, was
summoned to appear before the in-
vestigators after he had written a letter
to Senator Andrews, of Roanoke, in
which he strongly intimated the ex-
istence of "graft" in the State Board
of Education. When he was asked
last night to cite a concrete instance
of "grafting," Mr. Shelor said: "I have
never heard a name mentioned, but the
public believes there is something
wrong."

SHELOR DISCLAIMS ANY PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE OF GRAFT

After he had disclaimed any personal
knowledge of "graft" or "corruption"
on the part of members of the State
Board of Education, Mr. Shelor said
his main contention was that students
in the public schools are required to
study too many subjects, to their great
prejudice, and that books
sold for use in the public schools cost
about twice as much. Mr. Shelor
testified that he has had seven chil-
dren attend the public schools, and
he ventured the opinion that he should
know a few things along educational
lines in Virginia. His little thirteen-
year-old girl, he said, has to study
fifteen hours a day to keep up with
the course offered in the public schools
at Salem. He said a physician had told
two of his older daughters that they
had been injured by having to lug
heavy loads of books to school.

"I tell you that if of thing don't
make a man feel good," said the wit-
ness with considerable gusto. "When
I was a child I can't remember see-
ing a child wearing specs. Look at
'em to-day. I see children carrying
loads of books that I wouldn't carry
myself."

ADmits CONVICTION FOR VIOLATING CHILD LABOR LAW

Delegated Gunn, chairman of the com-
mittee, asked the witness if it were
true that he had been found guilty
of violation of the child labor laws of
the State, and of violating the act
making it unlawful to work employes
less than ten hours a day. Mr.
Shelor admitted that he had been found
guilty in both instances. He proceeded
into a lengthy account of just how it
all happened, but the investigators
were not much impressed, apparently.

Mr. Shelor's prelude to his testimony
was unique, if not entirely relevant.
He told how eighteen years ago he had
overheard a conversation between two
members of the House of Delegates in
which it was certainly intimated that
there was "grafting" somewhere in the
matter of schoolbook adoptions. Mr.
Shelor didn't remember the legislators
names, and couldn't recall the exact
nature of the charges they made. It
happened right in the lobby of the old
Ford Hotel that used to stand right
here, said the witness in reminiscence,
"and I have heard various things."

ADmits HAVING NO REAL KNOWLEDGE OF GRAFT

"Do you really believe there has been
any 'graft'?" Delegate Gunn asked the
witness.

"I don't know about that," said the
witness knowingly. "One man in Salem
told me a book agent gave him \$13
to have certain books adopted."

Mr. Shelor was on the witness stand
a full two hours. He was questioned at
different times by every member
of the investigating committee. His
testimony was a source of considerable
amusement to a room well filled with
spectators, including numerous rep-
resentatives of publishing concerns. He
admitted that he believed the State
Board of Education has made an error
of head and tail in its selection of
books, and that he might have to offer which, in his
opinion, would serve to improve the
educational system of the State. This
he did with a will.

RECESS FOR TWO WEEKS PROPOSED

(Continued from First Page.)

laid at a rate not to exceed 30 cents
on the \$100 of assessed valuation
thereof (but this clause shall not be
construed to authorize the Board of
Supervisors of any county to levy such
tax against the residents of an incor-
porated town which maintains its own
roads, which town is located within
such magisterial district); nor to pre-
vent any incorporated town in this
State which is exempt by statute or
by the express provisions of its charter
from the payment of district road
taxes, or which maintains its own roads
free of expense to the magisterial dis-
trict in which it is located from levying
and collecting a tax on all land and
aggregated intangible personal property
assessed to residents therein at a rate
not to exceed 30 cents on the \$100 of
assessed valuation thereof."

CONFERENCE REPORT ADOPTED IN BOTH HOUSES

The report of the conference was
adopted in the Senate by a vote of
28 to 8, and in the House by a vote of
65 to 28, as follows:

Recorded vote of Senate:
Ayes—Messrs. Andrews, Blanks,
Brook, Buchanan, Corbit, Crockett,
Drewry, Fletcher, Garrett, Gayle, Gool-
rick, Gravatt, Hobbs, Landes, Leavelle,
Mapp, Paxton, Rinehart, Rison,
Royall, Saunders, Smith, Sowder, Tay-
venner, Thornton, Watkins and West
—28.

Nays—Messrs. Bowers, Catron, Early,
Harman, Massie, Marr, Paxton, Wen-
denburg—8.

Recorded vote of House:

Ayes—Messrs. Adams, Baker, Birrell,
Branscomb, Brewer, Brown, Chalkley,
Chapman, Cousins, Crockett, Cray-
ford, John Orr, Daniel, J. William
Daniel, Farman, Franklin, Fuller,
Grant, Grasty, Gregory, Gunn, Harris,
Harrison, Harvey, Hobson, Horner,
Houston, Huff, Johnson, Kent, Kinsey,
Land, Lincoln, Looney, Love, Lowry,
Nelson, Miller, Milstead, Myers, Noland,
Norris, Oliver, Pennington, Powell,
Powers, Price, Rew, Robertson, Ro-
spack, Spessard, Steck, Stephenson,
Stubbs, Taylor, Terrell, Tiffany, Wal-
ton, A. G. Weaver, H. C. Weaver, White,
Williams, Willis, Winston and Speaker
Cox—65.

Noes—Barley, Bonifant, Browning,

Cawthorn, Commins, Dalton, Dodson,
Duke, Field, Green, Gordon, Hughes,
Jordan, Lewis, Massie, Meetez, Monta-
gue, Nelson, Owen, Page, Philpott,
Pitts, Radford, Reed, Francis W.
Smith, Harry B. Smith, Stearnes and
Woodward—28.

WEAVER EXPLAINS TERMS OF COMPROMISE

When the conference report was
taken up, Aubrey G. Weaver, one of the
segregationist leaders, explained its
provisions.

"We have carried out the spirit of the
Taverner amendment," he said,
"and we have given to the cities the
right to levy a 20-cent tax on the
class of intangibles we have segre-
gated to the State."

Mr. Montague, leader of the tax
commission element in the House, in-
terrupted him with "Don't you think
you are using the word 'segregated'
inadvisably?"

"We have too much of greater im-
portance ahead just now for me to
argue that point with you," replied
Mr. Weaver. "So far as the cities and
towns are concerned, they have the
right to make the 20-cent levy. Now
as to the counties, we have provided
that they shall have the right to levy
a district road tax. Nothing in the
amendment, however, authorizes the
county to levy the tax against the in-
corporated town within the magisterial
district."

Montague, to further inquiries by Mr.
Montague, he said: "We have not dealt
with the State rate on intangibles, but
it will come up later in House bill 64.
If we think it is too high we can fix
it then."

STUBBS FALLS IN LINE FOR REPORT

Major Stubbs, of Gloucester, in a
characteristic speech, took a good
humored and philosophical view of the
situation. He had been a strong tax
commission advocate. "We have the
conference report before us," he said,
"and we must deal with it. We can
only say yes or no to it. It is not
what we want, perhaps, but it is the
only thing now available. I came
here predisposed to accept the tax
commission's recommendations, but in
view of the situation that now con-
fronts us I am going to vote for the
conference report."

Brief remarks were made on the
subject by Delegates Philpotts and
Leedy.

Said Mr. Leedy, in humorous vein:
"It's a pleasant thing to ride a band
wagon and know exactly where that
wagon is headed for, but I am voting
for a principle. The fear in my mind
is that you are about to hand the peo-
ple of the Commonwealth a lemon. I
hope I may be wrong. If the plan
works out all right I will give you
credit for it. If it doesn't I will be the
last fellow to come along and say to
you reprovingly, I told you so. Gen-
tleman, I leave you and your bill to a
merciful God."

MONTAGUE SAYS TERM SEGREGATION IS MISNOMER

"I stand as I stood in the beginning,"
said Mr. Montague. "I cannot find in
this bill anything segregated except
one subject of taxation, and that is in-
surance taxes, and such other items
of State taxes as have been always in-
cluded."

"You have taken our tax commis-
sion report, transformed it into some-
body else's bill, and now you are hav-
ing a desperate struggle trying to make
it workable."

Shafts of that character from the
brows of the defeated segregationists
fell on Mr. Weaver precipitated a
vote on the pending question, and
the report was adopted.

Speaker Edwin P. Cox immediately
named Delegate Walter T. Oliver, of
Fairfax, to communicate to the Sen-
ate the action of the House on the re-
port. Mr. Weaver moved to take up
out of its order the bill fixing the State
rate on intangibles, and it was ad-
vanced to its third reading.

MYERS OPPOSES HIGH RATE ON COUNTY BONDS

Captain Myers, of Richmond, spoke
at some length on the bill, protesting
against a higher rate than 35 cents on
the bonds of cities, counties and towns.
"I don't think these bonds should be
taxed at all," he said, "and I am will-
ing to let it stand at 35 cents until
some later Legislature takes off the
tax entirely."

Mr. Gordon, of Louisa, and others
joined in the debate, which was inter-
rupted by Mr. White with a motion to
pass the bill by until this morning. He
said some changes were contemplated.
On Mr. White's motion the committee's
substitute for Senate bill 63, the ad-
visory board measure, was then taken
up out of its order. It was decided to
limit debate on the numerous amend-
ments to five minutes for each member
on each amendment.

THE SENATE

The Senate yesterday afternoon by a
vote of 28 to 8 adopted the report of
the conference of Senators and Dele-
gates on the Taverner amendment to
the segregation bill. The Senate con-
vened for the late session yesterday
afternoon at 4 o'clock, but marked time
until shortly after 5 o'clock, when a
communication from the House of Dele-
gates that read recommending that the
lower branch of the General Assembly
had agreed to the report of the con-
ference committee.

The Senate convened yesterday at
noon with President Elyson in the
chair. There was no opening prayer,
as the minister requested to officiate
was late.

The Finance Committee favorably re-
ported the bill making an appropri-
ation of \$10,000 for the eradication of
the foot and mouth disease among live

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Noes—Barley, Bonifant, Browning,

stock. The bill was passed in the Sen-
ate by unanimous vote.

The Senate concurred in the House
bill segregating to the State all fran-
chise taxes, and permitting assess-
ments of levies on real estate and tan-
gible property for local purposes. Here-
before this tax has been divided by the
State and the cities and counties.

HARMAN'S BILL IS PROMPTLY PASSED

The bill offered by Senator Harman,
of Richmond, amending the law regard-
ing the desertion of wives and children
was taken up. Several amendments to
the measure were adopted. All of them
tend to make the law more rigid. Ju-
venile court officers and social workers
advocated the passage of the bill in the
committee hearing. The measure was
promptly passed.

The chair was vacated at 2 o'clock
and was resumed at 4 o'clock.

Senator Mapp, of Accomac, proved
himself a star and a true diplomat in
the role of host yesterday afternoon
when a levy of young women from the
Woman's College of Richmond visited
the Senate chamber as his guests. The
Senator made a noble effort to explain
to the fair visitors the intricacies of
the tax code, and during the afternoon
conducted them to the Governor's sanc-
tuary, where they were accorded an in-
troduction to the chief executive.

Practically all of the young women
are residents of the Eastern Shore sec-
tion of Virginia. The party was com-
posed of Misses Taylor, Stevenson, Ab-
bott, Adams, Suggs, Piggett, Curtis,
Wapler, Kelly and Thompson.

FEATHERSTON CALLED HOME BY FATHER'S ILLNESS

Senator Featherston, of Lynchburg,
was called home yesterday afternoon to
the bedside of his father, who is seri-
ously ill. On motion he was granted
a two days' leave of absence. The
Lynchburg Senator has taken an active
part in the affairs of the special ses-
sion, and has been an ardent advocate
of the commission form of taxation.

A communication was read yesterday
from Senator Edmondson, of Halifax,
who is detained at his home on account
of poor health, expressing regret at his
inability to take part in the work of
tax revision. The Senate voted to draft
a response to the communication.

THE HOUSE

Eight bills were passed at the morn-
ing session of the House of Delegates
and other interesting matters of busi-
ness were transacted.

The bills passed were as follows:
Senate bill 2, a tax measure; Senate
bill 17, relating to sick benefit and in-
dustrial associations; reported from the
Finance Committee and passed with-
out opposition.

Senate bill 61, appropriating \$55,000
to reimburse the superintendent of the
penitentiary and to be used for the
establishment and maintenance of the
Committee on Appropriations.

House bill 73, in reference to the tax
on banks and trust and security com-
panies; reported from the Finance Com-
mittee.

House bill 70, the Milstead measure
relieving police justices of the duty of
trying civil cases; reported from the
Committee on Justice.

House bill 72, a tax measure; report-
ed from the Finance Committee.

House bill 74, the Stearnes bill af-
fecting the fertilizer tax fund; report-
ed from the Agricultural and Mining
Committee.

House bill 84, adding certain banks
to the list of State depositories.

House bill 85, authorizing the town
council of Gladeville, Wise County, to
issue bonds to liquidate and pay off the
town's indebtedness.

The House voted to pass by the fol-
lowing at the morning session: Senate
bill 21, a tax measure; House bill 72,
providing that the date for the assess-
ment of intangible property; House bill
75, providing for further loans on
school property in certain districts;

House bill 76, the Bristol charter mea-
sure; House bill 77, for a bond issue for
street improvements in the town of
Franklin.

The House rejected the Leedy bill,
No. 73, providing for a revision of the
Commonwealth of lands and lots
sold for delinquent taxes, and making
the same lie in grant by warrants as in
case of waste, vacant and unappropri-
ated lands.

CONFERENCE REPORT ADOPTED BY HOUSE, 65 TO 28

At the afternoon session, which be-
gan at 3:30 o'clock, the bill authoriz-
ing school trustees to secure second
loans on school property, was again
taken up and the House refused to re-
consider the vote by which it was re-
jected.

Senate bill 21, the income tax mea-
sure, was next taken up and it was
passed by a good majority vote. Sen-
ate bill 31, of the tax series, was dis-
missed from the calendar. The House
then passed the bill amending the Lou-
doun County road law.

The conference report was reached
in the regular order of business. Fol-
lowing brief speeches by half a score
of members it was adopted by a vote
of 65 to 28, and the Speaker, Mr. Cox,
announced that the bill would be
communicated to the action of the
House on the report to the Senate.

House bill 64, fixing the State rate
on intangibles, was then taken up out
of its order on motion of Aubrey G.
Weaver. It was advanced to engross-
ment without a dissenting vote. Mr.
Weaver explaining that the bill provid-
ing the machinery for putting the par-
tial segregation bill into effect would
be purposely held back until action
could be had on the segregation mea-
sure.

Debate on amendments to the bill
was in progress when the hour for
vacating the chair, 6 o'clock, arrived.
Spoked Cox expressed the hope that
a night session would be held to ex-
pedite business. Walter T. Oliver, how-
ever, moved to adjourn until 10 o'clock
this morning, and the motion to ad-
journ prevailed, 36 to 34. On roll call,
however, the result of the vote was
annulled, 35 members voting against
the motion to adjourn while the op-
position mustered only 34 votes. The
Speaker declared the chair vacated un-
til 8 o'clock.

HOUSE DEBATES AMENDMENTS TO ADVISORY BOARD BILL

Almost at the opening of the night
session Mr. Oliver arose to make the
point that there was no quorum pres-
ent. The members were coming in
slowly. It was Mr. Oliver's purpose to
delay the vote on the measure, and it
was so palpable that some of the
members were inclined to resent it.

Delegates Meetez and Milstead called
attention to the fact that while ap-
parently there was a majority pres-
ent, it was because some of the mem-

(Continued on Fourth Page.)

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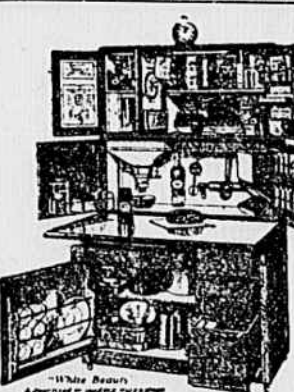
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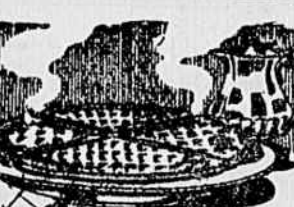
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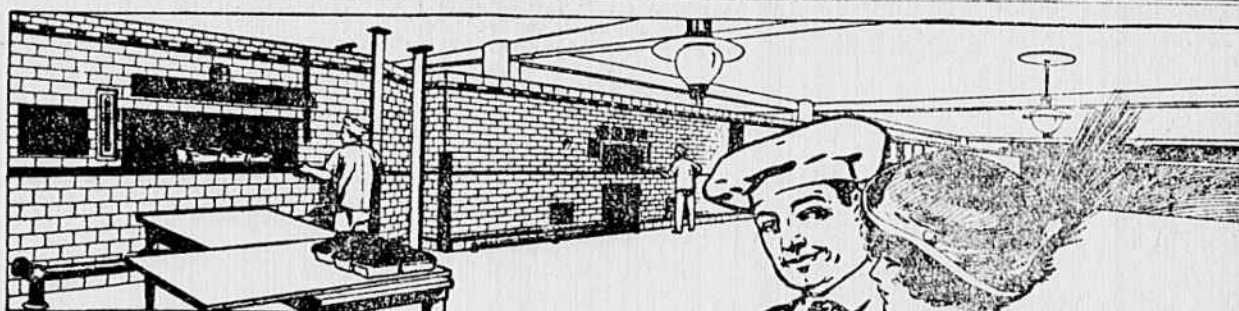
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